

# SENATE BILL 332

F1, O4

(4lr0138)

## ENROLLED BILL

— *Budget and Taxation and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Ways and Means* —

Introduced by **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators King, Ferguson, Astle, Benson, Conway, Currie, Klausmeier, Miller, Peters, Raskin, Robey, Rosapepe, ~~and Zirkin~~ Zirkin, Colburn, DeGrange, Dyson, Edwards, Getty, Jones-Rodwell, Kasemeyer, Kittleman, Madaleno, Manno, McFadden, Montgomery, and Pinsky**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prekindergarten Expansion Act of 2014**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding prekindergarten services to certain 4-year-old  
4 children; altering the name of the Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and  
5 Childhood Education Enhancement Program; changing the name of a certain  
6 grant; establishing a Preschool Services Grant; authorizing the Department of  
7 Education to distribute a certain grant to be used for a certain purpose;  
8 requiring certain providers to obtain accreditation by a certain date; requiring  
9 the Department to establish certain procedures for certain grants; requiring  
10 certain recipients of certain grants to perform certain duties; requiring the

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

*Italics* indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 Department to conduct a certain evaluation; requiring a certain report by a  
2 certain date; establishing the Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program;  
3 identifying the purpose of the Program; requiring the Department to administer  
4 the Program; requiring the Program to be a competitive grant program for  
5 certain providers; requiring the Department to take measures to achieve  
6 geographic diversity among certain vendors; establishing certain criteria for  
7 priority consideration to participate in the Program; establishing certain uses  
8 for grant funds; authorizing the Department to establish certain policies and  
9 procedures and additional eligibility criteria for certain purposes; requiring a  
10 certain qualified vendor to receive a grant in a certain year under certain  
11 circumstances; requiring funds for the Program to be as provided in a certain  
12 budget; requiring certain vendors to certify certain information prior to  
13 receiving a certain grant; authorizing the Governor to provide funds for certain  
14 purposes; requiring a certain funding level to be maintained if funds are  
15 provided in the budget; prohibiting certain uses of funds; requiring the  
16 Department to perform certain functions; establishing the Prekindergarten  
17 Expansion Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the  
18 Fund; requiring the Department to administer the Fund; requiring the State  
19 Treasurer to hold the Fund and the Comptroller to account for the Fund;  
20 specifying the contents of the Fund; specifying the purpose for which the Fund  
21 may be used; providing for the investment of money in and expenditures from  
22 the Fund; requiring the Department to make a certain report to the General  
23 Assembly on or before a certain date annually; exempting a certain fund from a  
24 certain provision of law; defining certain terms; requiring a certain study to  
25 include certain information and certain findings; requiring a certain study and  
26 a certain plan to be submitted by a certain date; and generally relating to the  
27 Prekindergarten Expansion Grant Program.

28 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
29 Article – Education  
30 Section 5–217  
31 Annotated Code of Maryland  
32 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

33 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
34 Article – Education  
35 Section 7–101.1  
36 Annotated Code of Maryland  
37 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

38 BY adding to  
39 Article – Education  
40 Section 7–101.2  
41 Annotated Code of Maryland  
42 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

43 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

1 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
 2 Section 6–226(a)(1) and (2)(i)  
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 4 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 6 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
 7 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)76. and 77.  
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 9 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

10 BY adding to  
 11 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
 12 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)78.  
 13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 14 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
 16 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Education**

18 5–217.

19 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (2) “Accreditation” means the determination that a program meets  
 21 quality standards defined by the accrediting agency beyond State child care  
 22 regulations.

23 (3) “Accrediting agency” means a State agency or national  
 24 organization that has developed a recognized accrediting process.

25 (4) “Credentialing” means the process through which an individual is  
 26 awarded a professional certificate based on education and experience.

27 (5) “Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement  
 28 Grant” means a grant that is distributed under subsection [(e)] **(E–1)** of this section.

29 (6) “Full day” means a period of time during the day that:

30 (i) Meets the needs of families; and

31 (ii) Is not less than 7 hours or more than 12 hours per day.

1           (7) “Judy Center” means a site where comprehensive early [child care  
2 and] **CHILDHOOD** education services are provided to young children and their  
3 families for the purpose of promoting school readiness through collaboration with  
4 participating agencies and programs.

5           (8) “Judy Center Grant” means a grant that is distributed under  
6 subsection (d) of this section.

7           (9) “Local management board” means a local management board as  
8 defined under § 8–101(l) of the Human Services Article.

9           (10) “Participating agencies and programs” includes:

- 10                   (i) Public prekindergarten and kindergarten programs;
- 11                   (ii) Head Start programs;
- 12                   (iii) Family literacy programs and services;
- 13                   (iv) Local infants and toddlers programs;
- 14                   (v) Child care centers and family child care homes;
- 15                   (vi) Family support centers;
- 16                   (vii) Healthy family sites;
- 17                   (viii) Parent involvement programs;
- 18                   (ix) Early childhood programs affiliated with institutions of  
19 higher education; and
- 20                   (x) Other home visiting, community health, family support  
21 services, and child care resource and referral agencies.

22           **(11) “PRESCHOOL SERVICES GRANT” MEANS A GRANT THAT IS**  
23 **DISTRIBUTED UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.**

24           ~~(11)~~ **(12)** “Program” means the Judith P. Hoyer Early [Child Care  
25 and] **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Program established under this section.

26           (b) (1) There is a Judith P. Hoyer Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD**  
27 Education Enhancement Program in the Department.

28           (2) The purpose of the Program is to promote school readiness through  
29 the development and expansion of collaborative approaches to the delivery of high

1 quality, comprehensive, full-day early [child care and] **CHILDHOOD** education  
2 programs and family support services.

3 (c) (1) The Program shall be funded as provided in the State budget.

4 (2) Funds that are allocated to the Program in the State budget may  
5 be used:

6 (i) To cover the costs incurred by the Department in  
7 implementing and administering the Program;

8 (ii) For Judy Center Grants, as provided under subsection (d) of  
9 this section;

10 **(III) FOR PRESCHOOL SERVICES GRANTS, AS PROVIDED**  
11 **UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION;**

12 ~~[(iii)]~~ **(IV)** For Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD** Education  
13 Enhancement Grants, as provided under subsection ~~[(e)]~~ **(E-1)** of this section; and

14 ~~[(iv)]~~ **(V)** To fund the statewide implementation of the  
15 Department's Early Childhood Assessment System, as provided under subsection (f) of  
16 this section.

17 (d) The Department may distribute a Judy Center Grant to a county board if  
18 the county board submits an application to the Department that includes:

19 (1) A memorandum of understanding between the county board, the  
20 participating agencies and programs, and, in the discretion of the county board, the  
21 local management board that includes:

22 (i) The terms of the collaboration to be undertaken by the  
23 county board, the participating agencies and programs, and, if applicable, the local  
24 management board, including the roles and responsibilities of each of these entities;  
25 and

26 (ii) A plan for establishing ongoing communication between  
27 private service providers and public school early education programs; and

28 (2) Documentation that shows that:

29 (i) The Department's Early Childhood Assessment System will  
30 be implemented at the Center;

31 (ii) All participating agencies and programs that provide early  
32 [child care and] **CHILDHOOD** education services through the Center have voluntarily

1 obtained accreditation or, by the date of the Grant application, have voluntarily  
2 initiated and are actively pursuing the process of obtaining accreditation; and

3 (iii) The Center will provide comprehensive, full-day early [child  
4 care and] **CHILDHOOD** education services and family support services.

5 (e) (1) The Department may distribute [an Early Child Care and  
6 Education Enhancement] **A PRESCHOOL SERVICES Grant** [to a county board] to be  
7 used to [purchase early child care and education services and family support services  
8 from providers] **PROVIDE PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES FOR 4-YEAR-OLD  
9 CHILDREN WHOSE BIRTHDAYS FALL ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1 OF THE  
10 SCHOOL YEAR DURING WHICH SERVICES WILL BE PROVIDED AND WHOSE  
11 FAMILY INCOME IS BELOW A LEVEL SET BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

12 **(2) PRIVATE PROVIDERS** that have voluntarily obtained  
13 accreditation or have voluntarily initiated and are actively pursuing accreditation **BY  
14 THE DATE OF THE GRANT APPLICATION MUST OBTAIN ACCREDITATION BEFORE  
15 RECEIVING A GRANT AWARD.**

16 **[(2)] (E-1)** The Department may distribute an Early [Child Care and]  
17 **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grant to a private provider of early [child care  
18 and] **CHILDHOOD** education services to be used:

19 **[(i)] (1)** To assist the provider in voluntarily obtaining  
20 accreditation; or

21 **[(ii)] (2)** For professional development activities leading to  
22 increased competency and appropriate credentialing that is related to early [child care  
23 and] **CHILDHOOD** education services.

24 (f) The Department may distribute funds to a county board for the purpose  
25 of implementing the Department's Early Childhood Assessment System in the  
26 county's public schools.

27 (g) (1) The Department shall:

28 (i) Establish application procedures for obtaining Judy Center  
29 **GRANTS, PRESCHOOL SERVICES GRANTS,** and Early [Child Care and]  
30 **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grants as provided under this section;

31 (ii) Supervise and monitor the use of Grant funds distributed  
32 under this section; and

33 (iii) Evaluate whether Grant recipients are meeting annual  
34 benchmarks established by the Department.

1                   (2) For Judy Center Grants, the Department may award multiyear  
2 funding.

3           (h) A county board that is selected to receive a Judy Center Grant or [an  
4 Early Child Care and Education Enhancement Grant for the purpose of purchasing  
5 early child care and education services] **A PRIVATE PROVIDER THAT HAS BEEN  
6 SELECTED FOR A PRESCHOOL SERVICES GRANT OR AN EARLY CHILDHOOD  
7 EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT GRANT** shall:

8                   (1) Administer the Grant award;

9                   (2) Submit fiscal and program reports as required by the Department;  
10 and

11                   (3) Coordinate the involvement of participating agencies and programs  
12 in any evaluation process conducted by the Department.

13           (i) Grants awarded under this section may not be used:

14                   (1) To supplant existing funding for any services provided by  
15 participating agencies and programs; or

16                   (2) For capital improvements.

17           (j) The Department shall [select through a competitive bidding process and  
18 supervise an evaluator who shall design and implement] **CONDUCT** an evaluation  
19 process to measure the effectiveness of:

20                   (1) The Judy Centers; and

21                   (2) Early [child care and] **CHILDHOOD** education services and family  
22 support services that are purchased with funds from **PRESCHOOL SERVICES  
23 GRANTS AND** Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grants.

24           (k) The Department shall submit to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of  
25 the State Government Article, the General Assembly:

26                   (1) On or before November 1 of each year, a report on the  
27 implementation of the Program and the participating agencies and programs,  
28 including a description of the Program's and the participating agencies' and programs'  
29 expenditures, enrollment, and statewide performance data, including school readiness  
30 data disaggregated by program and by jurisdiction; and

1           (2) On or before January 1, [2004] **2016**, a separate report that  
2 includes an evaluation, based on objective performance criteria established by the  
3 Department, of the effectiveness of:

4                   (i) The Judy Centers; and

5                   (ii) Early [child care and] **CHILDHOOD** education services and  
6 family support services that are purchased with funds from **PRESCHOOL SERVICES**  
7 **GRANTS AND** Early [Child Care and] **CHILDHOOD** Education Enhancement Grants.

8           (1) The Department may adopt regulations as necessary to implement the  
9 Program.

10 7–101.1.

11           (a) (1) In this section the following terms have the meanings indicated.

12                   (2) “Economically disadvantaged background” means a family whose  
13 income would make a child eligible for free or reduced price meals if the child were in  
14 kindergarten.

15                   (3) “Eligible child” means a child:

16                           (i) Who is from an economically disadvantaged background;

17                           (ii) Whose parent or guardian seeks to enroll the child in a  
18 public prekindergarten program; and

19                           (iii) Who is 4 years old on September 1 of the school year in  
20 which the parent or legal guardian seeks to enroll the child in a public  
21 prekindergarten program.

22                   (4) “Eligible for free or reduced price meals” means eligible for free or  
23 reduced price meals based on eligibility requirements established by the United States  
24 Department of Agriculture.

25           (b) By the 2007–2008 school year, all eligible children shall be admitted free  
26 of charge to publicly funded prekindergarten programs established by each of the  
27 county boards.

28           (c) The requirements set forth in § 7–101(b) of this subtitle regarding the  
29 domicile of a child and the residency of the child’s parent or guardian shall apply to  
30 prekindergarten programs established by county boards as required by this section.

31           (d) In the comprehensive master plan that is submitted under § 5–401 of this  
32 article, a county board shall identify the strategies that will be used in that county to

1 ensure that publicly funded prekindergarten programs are available to all eligible  
2 children in that county by the 2007–2008 school year.

3 **7–101.2.**

4 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE  
5 MEANINGS INDICATED.

6 (2) “ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE CHILD” MEANS A CHILD:

7 (I) WHO IS FROM AN ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED  
8 BACKGROUND;

9 (II) WHOSE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SEEKS TO  
10 ENROLL THE CHILD IN A PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM  
11 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

12 (III) WHO IS 4 YEARS OLD ON SEPTEMBER 1 OF THE SCHOOL  
13 YEAR IN WHICH THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN SEEKS TO ENROLL THE  
14 CHILD IN A PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM ESTABLISHED  
15 UNDER THIS SECTION.

16 (3) “ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUND” MEANS A  
17 FAMILY WHOSE INCOME IS NO MORE THAN 300% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY  
18 GUIDELINES.

19 (4) “FUND” MEANS THE PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION FUND.

20 (5) “JUDY CENTER” HAS THE SAME MEANING AS PROVIDED IN §  
21 5–217 OF THIS ARTICLE.

22 (6) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION  
23 GRANT PROGRAM.

24 (7) “QUALIFIED VENDOR” MEANS:

25 (I) IF PARTNERING WITH A COUNTY BOARD UNDER A  
26 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, A STATE ACCREDITED OR NATIONALLY  
27 ACCREDITED CHILD CARE CENTER OR A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL APPROVED BY THE  
28 DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES;

29 (II) A COUNTY BOARD THAT PROVIDES PREKINDERGARTEN  
30 SERVICES UNDER § 7–101.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

1                   **(III) A JUDY CENTER OR PRIVATE PROVIDER OF**  
2 **PRESCHOOL SERVICES THAT MEETS THE GRANT REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 5-217**  
3 **OF THIS ARTICLE.**

4           **(B) (1) THERE IS A GRANT PROGRAM KNOWN AS THE**  
5 **PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE STATE.**

6                   **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO BROADEN THE**  
7 **AVAILABILITY OF PREKINDERGARTEN AND SCHOOL READINESS SERVICES**  
8 **THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN**  
9 **COORDINATION WITH THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:**

10                   **(I) THE PUBLICLY FUNDED PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**  
11 **ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-101.1 OF THIS ARTICLE; AND**

12                   **(II) THE JUDITH P. HOYER EARLY CHILDHOOD**  
13 **EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5-217 OF THIS**  
14 **SUBTITLE.**

15                   **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

16                   **(4) (I) THE PROGRAM SHALL BE A COMPETITIVE GRANT**  
17 **PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO QUALIFIED VENDORS.**

18                   **(II) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL TAKE MEASURES TO ACHIEVE**  
19 **GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AMONG PARTICIPATING QUALIFIED VENDORS.**

20                   **(III) PRIORITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM**  
21 **SHALL BE GIVEN TO QUALIFIED VENDORS:**

22                               **1. THAT ARE LOCATED IN AREAS OF THE STATE**  
23 **THAT HAVE AN UNMET NEED FOR PREKINDERGARTEN OR COMPREHENSIVE**  
24 **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SERVICES;**

25                               **2. THAT INCLUDE A PLAN FOR LONG-TERM**  
26 **SUSTAINABILITY, INCLUDING COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS AND**  
27 **MATCHING FUNDS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE; AND**

28                               **3. THAT INCORPORATE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT**  
29 **AND THE BENEFITS OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**  
30 **INTO THE VENDORS' PROGRAMS.**

31                   **(IV) PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION GRANTS MAY BE USED**  
32 **TO EXPAND PREKINDERGARTEN SERVICES, INCLUDING:**

1                   1. ~~HALF-DAY~~ ESTABLISHING OR EXPANDING  
2 EXISTING HALF-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN FOR ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN  
3 AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION;

4                   2. ~~FULL-DAY~~ ESTABLISHING OR EXPANDING  
5 FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN FOR ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN §  
6 7-101.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN  
7 THIS SECTION; ~~AND~~

8                   3. ESTABLISHING OR EXPANDING EXISTING JUDY  
9 CENTERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN § 7-101.1  
10 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN THIS  
11 SECTION WHO ARE LOCATED IN TITLE I SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS; AND

12                   4. EXPANDING                   EXISTING                   HALF-DAY  
13 PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS INTO FULL-DAY PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS  
14 FOR ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN § 7-101.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR  
15 ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AS DEFINED IN THIS SECTION.

16                   (v) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH:

17                   1. ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE  
18 SELECTION OF QUALIFIED VENDORS;

19                   2. APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESSES  
20 INCLUDING THE SUBMISSION DATE FOR APPLICATIONS, RENEWAL  
21 PROCEDURES, AND APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESSES FOR MAKING AWARDS  
22 UNDER THE PROGRAM; AND

23                   3. ANY OTHER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
24 NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

25                   (5) A QUALIFIED VENDOR THAT HAS RECEIVED A  
26 PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION GRANT IN THE CURRENT YEAR SHALL BE  
27 AWARDED A GRANT IN THE NEXT YEAR IF THE QUALIFIED VENDOR CONTINUES  
28 TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

29                   (c) BEFORE APPROVING QUALIFIED VENDORS FOR PREKINDERGARTEN  
30 SERVICES TO RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER THIS SECTION, A QUALIFIED VENDOR  
31 SHALL CERTIFY TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT FOR EACH CLASSROOM FUNDED  
32 UNDER THIS SECTION THE VENDOR WILL:

1           **(1) MAINTAIN A STUDENT-TO-TEACHER RATIO OF NO MORE**  
2 **THAN 10 TO 1 WITH AN AVERAGE OF 20 CHILDREN PER CLASSROOM;**

3           **(2) PROVIDE IN EACH CLASSROOM AT LEAST ONE TEACHER**  
4 **CERTIFIED IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BY THE STATE AND AT LEAST ONE**  
5 **TEACHER'S AIDE WHO HAS AT LEAST A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE; AND**

6           **(3) OPERATE AN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR:**

7                   **(I) 5 DAYS PER WEEK;**

8                   **(II) 180 DAYS PER YEAR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC**  
9 **SCHOOL CALENDAR ESTABLISHED BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD; AND**

10                   **(III) 1. FOR HALF-DAY PROGRAMS, AT LEAST 2.5 HOURS**  
11 **PER DAY; OR**

12                                   **2. FOR FULL-DAY PROGRAMS, AT LEAST 6.5 HOURS**  
13 **PER DAY.**

14           **(D) (1) FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE**  
15 **STATE BUDGET.**

16                   **(2) THE AMOUNT OF STATE FUNDS PROVIDED FOR THE**  
17 **PROGRAM EACH FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE AT LEAST AS MUCH AS WAS**  
18 **APPROPRIATED IN THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR.**

19                   **(3) THE GOVERNOR MAY PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT**  
20 **TO ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

21           **(E) GRANTS AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE USED:**

22                   **(1) TO SUPPLANT EXISTING FUNDING FOR PREKINDERGARTEN**  
23 **SERVICES; OR**

24                   **(2) FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.**

25           **(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

26                   **(1) LEVERAGE CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM FUNDS WHEN**  
27 **MAKING GRANT AWARDS TO PRIVATE PROVIDERS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE**  
28 **CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM;**

1           **(2) ENCOURAGE PRIVATE PROVIDERS THAT RECEIVE GRANTS TO**  
2 **PURSUE LEVEL 5 IN THE DEPARTMENT'S VOLUNTARY QUALITY RATING AND**  
3 **IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM KNOWN AS "MARYLAND EXCELS";**

4           **(3) SUPERVISE AND MONITOR THE USE OF GRANT FUNDS**  
5 **DISTRIBUTED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

6           **(4) EVALUATE WHETHER GRANT RECIPIENTS ARE MEETING**  
7 **ANNUAL BENCHMARKS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT.**

8           **(G) (1) THERE IS A PREKINDERGARTEN EXPANSION FUND.**

9           **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE**  
10 **PROGRAM.**

11           **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

12           **(4) (I) THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS**  
13 **NOT SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT**  
14 **ARTICLE.**

15                   **(II) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND**  
16 **SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

17           **(5) THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

18                   **(I) MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE**  
19 **FUND;**

20                   **(II) INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

21                   **(III) ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE,**  
22 **INCLUDING DONATIONS, ACCEPTED FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

23           **(6) THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR GRANTS MADE BY THE**  
24 **DEPARTMENT FOR THE PROGRAM.**

25           **(7) (I) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF**  
26 **THE FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

27                   **(II) INVESTMENT EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE PAID**  
28 **INTO THE FUND.**



1 and the Maryland Department of Planning shall report jointly on the *aggregate*  
 2 estimated number of 3-year-old and 4-year-old children and the *subcategory that*  
 3 *includes the* estimated number of ~~economically disadvantaged~~ 3-year-old and  
 4 4-year-old children from an economically disadvantaged background as defined in §§  
 5 7-101.1 and 7-101.2 of the Education Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act, in  
 6 each county (including Baltimore City) in Maryland for the current school year and the  
 7 next 5 school years. The report shall be submitted to the Governor and, in accordance  
 8 with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation  
 9 Committee, the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the  
 10 House Ways and Means Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee by  
 11 September 1, 2014.

12 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, the Maryland State  
 13 Department of Education shall conduct a study on the best practices to engage parents  
 14 and guardians in early education programs and services. The Department shall  
 15 develop an outreach plan based on best practices identified by the study, in  
 16 collaboration with existing programs for working families, that promotes the benefits  
 17 of early education programs and services, particularly in communities with low  
 18 participation rates in early education. The Department shall report on the study and  
 19 outreach plan to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
 20 Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the Senate  
 21 Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, the House Ways and  
 22 Means Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee on or before December 1,  
 23 2014.

24 SECTION 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
 25 June 1, 2014.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.